

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14-16 and 24 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Nerbun during the April 5, 2005 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claim 25 is allowed, and that claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10-12, 15, 17, 19 and 21-23 include allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 20 as being redundant claims; objects to claim 15 as being dependent on a redundant claim; and objects to claim 24 as being unclear. Applicant respectfully traverses the objections.

Regarding claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 20, Applicant submits that these claims are not redundant to preceding claims. Claim 3 recites "the contact member is moved or rotated a predetermined amount for insertion of the thread cassette into the cassette mount." However, claim 2 recites "the contact member is moved or rotated in a predetermined direction for insertion of the thread cassette into the cassette mount." Therefore, claim 3 is not redundant to claim 2.

Claims 5, 7 and 9 depend from claim 3, and thus are not redundant to respective claims 4, 6 and 8 that depend from claim 2 at least for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claim 13 recites a sewing apparatus "further

comprising a supporting member." Claim 12 recites a sewing apparatus "further comprising a thread cassette detector." Therefore, claim 13 is not redundant to claim 12.

Claim 14 recites "the contact member is moved or rotated a predetermined amount for ejection of the thread from the cassette mount." Claim 13 recites "the contact member is moved or rotated in a predetermined direction for ejection of the thread from the cassette mount." Therefore, claim 14 is not redundant to claim 13.

Claims 16, 18 and 20 depend from claim 14, and thus are not redundant to respective claims 15, 17 and 19 that depend from claim 13 at least for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Regarding claim 15, the Office Action objects to claim 15 as being dependent on a redundant claim. Therefore, the Office Action indicates that the objection may be overcome by amending claim 15 to depend from claim 2. However, as discussed above, claim 13 is not a redundant claim. Further, claim 15 is directed to ejection of a thread cassette. However, claim 2 is directed to insertion of a thread cassette. Therefore, claims 15 and 2 define movements of the thread cassette in opposite directions. Thus, claim 15 cannot depend from claim 2. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 15 properly depends from claim 13.

Regarding claim 24, the Office Action objects to claim 24 as being unclear. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the recitation of "as to be" should be changed to --that the contact member is--. Applicant amends claim 24 to delete such recitation.

During the personal interview, the Examiner agreed that the claims are not redundant, include proper dependencies, and are clear. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16 are only amended to correct informalities. Thus, the claims are not narrowed by these amendments.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,183,313 to Odermann et al. ("Odermann"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Regarding claim 1, Odermann does not disclose a sewing apparatus including "a control device for electrically controlling the carrier," as recited in independent claim 1. During the personal interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claim 24, the Examiner indicated that independent claim 24 does not include the feature of electrically controlling a carrier. Accordingly, claim 24 is amended to recite all the features of the claim 1 sewing apparatus in the preamble, and to then recite the structural relationship between the thread cassette and the sewing apparatus. Specifically, claim 24 is directed to a thread cassette including "a portion that actuates the control device, thereby causing the control device to electrically control the carrier; and a portion that is engaged by the carrier." Because Odermann teaches a thread cassette 32 manually attached to a cover 34 and released by a spring 82, Odermann does not teach or suggest a portion that actuates a control device to electrically control a carrier. For at least these reasons, Odermann does not teach or suggest the thread cassette of claim 24.

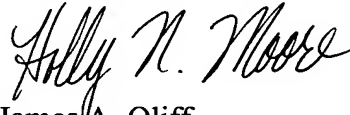
Claim 24 is patentable over Odermann. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNH/fpw

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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